

# LitMUSE



## Cyberpunk (Spring 2013)

Oct 2, 2012

Gerald Lucas

1 Comment

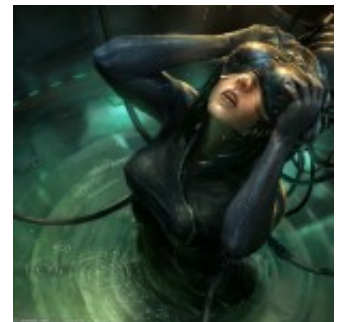
### Cyberpunk (Spring 2013)

Categories: Humanities

[#CyberpunkClass](#) | 26827 HUMN 3999.01 M 5:30-8p | 27352 for Honors

Cyberpunk is a sub-genre of science fiction that began in the New Wave movement of the sixties and reached its fruition at the beginning of the cyberage in the 1980s.

Bruce Sterling suggests that cyberpunk is a “garageband” aesthetic that borrows from both the hacker and the rocker. It is a postmodern movement of pastiche, technological intimacy, and virtual reality — a neo-romanticism for a high-tech age. Riding the electronic waves of the 1980s, the cyberpunks began as a group of literary hooligans who changed the way we look at our relationship with microprocessing technology. The cyberpunks were in love with style, bricolage, and the freedom of cyberspace. They pushed boundaries artistically and politically, setting the stage for our concept of the Internet today. This section of HUMN 3999 will examine “cyberpunk” in its literary, cultural, and political manifestations during the last quarter of the twentieth century to understand the indelible mark they made on current cyberculture.



### Required Texts

- Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (1968)
- Gibson, William. *Neuromancer*. (1984)
- Sterling, Bruce. *Schismatrix*. (1985)
- Stephenson, Neal. *Snow Crash*. (1992)
- Stross, Charles. *Accelerando*. (2005)

- Various Short Stories, available on [Google Drive](#).

## Recommended Texts

- Gibson, William. *Burning Chrome*. (1982)
- Kelly, James Patrick and John Kessel, eds. *Rewired: The Post-Cyberpunk Anthology* (2007)
- Sterling, Bruce. *A Good Old-Fashioned Future* (1999)
- –, ed. *Mirrorshades: The Cyberpunk Anthology* (1988)

## Course Policies

Students are held accountable for knowing and practicing each of the [course policies](#). Consider them like the law: the excuse “I didn’t know” will carry no weight.

As a Macon State College student and as a student in any of my classes, it is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the MSC Student Code of Conduct from the [MSC Student Handbook](#) (PDF).

## Requirements

This section of HUMN 3999 has three requirements.

### Research / Response Essay (30%)

Students will be responsible for completing one [research/response essay](#). See schedule below for due date.

### Participation (30%)

Regular class attendance, question posing, library assignments, [tweeting](#), and active participation in classroom discussions are required. Participation, effort, and attitude will count significantly in this course, even if your technical proficiency is lacking. Quizzes, other class activities, and homework assignments not explicitly outlined above will be considered participation.

### Exams (40%)

Two exams will be given that will test your knowledge of the subject matter (texts, lecture material, and vocabulary), your ability to synthesize this material, and your creativity in going beyond the discussion and lecture materials. The exams will include vocabulary, concepts, and interpretation. All exam grades will be based upon objective knowledge of the material, thoroughness, depth of insight, precision, and originality.

## Schedule

The dates correspond with the first day of the week, not necessarily the day(s) of class meetings. This schedule gives only a general overview of assignments, activities, and important dates. Specific assignments will be given in class. This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All files below marked as “PDF” are stored on [Google drive](#) that you must be granted access to. Follow the link to complete this process from your Google account.

All Assignments

[CPWk1 – 01/07/13](#)

Course introduction. Lecture/discussion: “What is Cyberpunk?” [Twitter accounts](#). Reading (at home): Bruce Sterling (@bruces), Preface to *Mirrorshades* (PDF); Larry McCaffery (#desreal), “The Desert of the Real” (PDF); James Patrick Kelly (@jaspkelly), “Who Owns Cyberpunk?” (PDF). Tweeting and Discussion: [CPWk1](#).

### CPWk2 – 01/14/13

Philip K. Dick (#PhilipKDick), *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (#elsheep)

### Week 03 – 01/21/13

Dick, “Frozen Journey” (PDF) and “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale” (PDF); James Tiptree, Jr. (#tiptreejr), “The Girl Who Was Plugged In” (PDF); Orson Scott Card (@orsonscottcard), “Ender’s Game” (PDF); William Gibson (@GreatDismal), “The Gernsback Continuum” (PDF)

### Week 04 – 01/28/13

Vernor Vinge (#vvinge), “True Names” (PDF); Gibson, “Burning Chrome” (PDF), “Johnny Mnemonic” (PDF); Paul di Filippo (@Ribofunkdifi) “Stone Lives” (PDF)

### Week 05 – 02/04/13

William Gibson (@GreatDismal), *Neuromancer*

### Week 06 – 02/11/13

Ridley Scott (@SRidleys), *Blade Runner* (in-class viewing)

### Week 07 – 02/18/13

Rudy Rucker (@rudytheelder), “Tales of Houdini” (PDF); Greg Bear (@greg\_bear), “Petra” (PDF); Pat Cadigan (@Cadigan), “Rock On” (PDF); Lewis Shiner (@lewisshiner), “Till Human Voice Wake Us” (PDF); James Patrick Kelly (@jaspkelly), “Solstice” (PDF)

### Week 08 – 02/25/13

Midterm Exam — given in-class; bring your own pen and paper

### Week 09 – 03/04/13

Spring Break — no class

### Week 10 – 03/11/13

Bruce Sterling (@bruces), *Schismatrix*

### Week 11 – 03/18/13

Filippo (@Ribofunkdifi) “One Night in Television City” (PDF) and “A Short Course in Art Appreciation” (PDF); Cory Doctorow (@doctorow), “Ownz0red” ([Weblink](#)); Paolo Bacigalupi (@paolobacigalupi), “Pop Squad” (PDF)

### Week 12 – 03/25/13

Neal Stephenson (@nealstephenson), *Snow Crash*

### Week 13 – 04/01/13

Mamoru Oshii (#oshiihghost), *Ghost in the Shell* (in-class viewing)

**Week 14 - 04/08/13**

Sterling, "Deep Eddy" (PDF), "Bicycle Repairman" (PDF), and "Taklamakan" (PDF) (Note: all three of these stories are available in *A Good Old-Fashioned Future*).

**Week 15 - 04/15/13**

Research/Response Essay 2 Due ; Andy and Lana Wachowski ([#wachbros](#)), *The Matrix* (in-class viewing)

**Week 16 - 04/22/13**

Charles Stross ([@cstross](#)), *Accelerando*

**#CyberpunkClass**

Like **8** **4** Tweet **16** **2** Share **1**

Tags: [cyberpunk](#), [HUMN 3999](#), [Spring 2013](#)

**About Gerald Lucas**

Dr. Gerald R. Lucas is an Associate Professor of English in the Department of Media, Culture & the Arts at Macon State College. He teaches courses in new media theory, web site design, and humanities. His research and teaching interests include epic poetry, science fiction, technoculture, and modernism. Dr. Lucas is currently offering Macon State's first and only iTunes U courses.



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Monday, 10/1

[Wiki Project](#)

# 1 comment



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LitMUSE · 20 days ago

Cyberpunk Syllabus is mostly finished. Check it out! <http://litmuse.net/course/huma...>

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**CPWk2: Do Androids Dream** 3 comments

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*Jan 10, 2013*

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**NMWk2: The Genesis of New Media**

*Jan 9, 2013*

**Recent Discussions**



Alex Knaub

How are Keith Richards and Norman Mailer alike? This is a great comparison. Both of them shook...

MailerWk1 · 11 hours ago



Alex Knaub

I am the first to discuss Mailer it seems. Mailer was a revolutionary of American Culture. I can...

MailerWk1 · 11 hours ago



Gerald R. Lucas

This

CPWk1 · 16 hours ago



Alexandria Hughes

Hello all! My name is Alexandria but I go by Alex. I have attended this school since the fall of...

Introductions (Spring 2013) · 18 hours ago



Nadine Epperson

You are the lady with all the answers, and the pretty face we see on our way into the office...

Introductions (Spring 2013) · 20 hours ago

## Dr. Gerald R. Lucas

Associate Professor of English  
Media, Culture, and the Arts  
Middle Georgia State

Twitter: [@drgrlucas](#)

Skype: drgrlucas

Web: <http://grlucas.net/>

## Contact

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**Phone**

(478) 471-5761

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**Email**

drgrlucas@gmail.com

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**V-Card**

Download

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**Address**

100 College Station Dr.  
Macon, GA 31204

[Map »](#)

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## Office Hours

My office is in the Humanities / Social Sciences building on the Macon Campus, H/SS-117. Spring 2013 office hours: M 4-5:50p; TR 12:15-1p and 2:30-3:30p; by Appointment.

Additional information about my schedule may be found on my [calendar](#).

## About LitMUSE



LitMUSE is the courseware web site of Dr. Gerald R. Lucas. This site contains course information, policies, and resources for the students of Dr. Lucas.

[Read More](#)

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## Course Policies

The following are *general policies* applicable for all the courses I teach, both traditional, in-class courses, and those taught online; obviously, some will not be applicable to on-line courses. Any additional policies or changes will be outlined under the specific course, so consult your specific syllabus for a more nuanced statement of policies.

As a Middle Georgia State student and as a student in any of my classes, it is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the Student Code of Conduct from the [Student Handbook \(PDF\)](#).

### Assignments

Any assignment you submit for evaluation should be the best that you can make it: relatively free of errors, word-processed, and formatted according to MLA guidelines. Late work is unacceptable. Plan ahead and complete work early so any potential difficulties may be avoided. [[Read More. . .](#)]

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded daily. Class failure will be the result of too many absences. Student conduct should follow the college's guidelines and reflect behaviors that demonstrate their active participation as learners. Class time will be spent on lecture, discussion, and other activities that encourage active class participation for the students. Real learning requires engaging the class materials, and students will be partially evaluated on their participation. [[Read More. . .](#)]

### Communication

These days, we have so many choices for communicating. However, some ways are better than others, and I encourage you to use those. [[Read More. . .](#)] Bring your smart phone, your tablet, or your laptop to class with you daily, and expect to use it as an integral part of the lesson. [[Read More. . .](#)]

### Evaluation

Evaluation depends on overall student performance. While the particulars of evaluation might differ between classes, it will usually depend on the successful completion of **all** requirements. [[Read More. . .](#)]

## **Materials**

Course readings are an integral part of the class and should be brought daily. When readings are assigned to be discussed in class, please bring a copy of the reading with your reading notes ready to participate in the discussion. [[Read More. . .](#)]

## **Online Courses**

Online courses are not for the average student since they require a particular set of skills and dedication. [[Read More. . .](#)]

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the theft of another's intellectual property and the attempt to pass it off as original. The punishment will be class failure and potentially result in more serious academic penalties. [[Read More. . .](#)]

Last updated: **December 17, 2012 @ 12:11pm**